



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
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The Honorable Mignon Clyburn
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

In the Matter of:
Nomination for Universal Service Administrative Company Board of Directors,
CC Docket Nos. 97-21 and 96-45

Dear Acting Chairwoman Clyburn:

I am pleased to nominate Valerie Oliver to fill the library representative seat on the Board of Directors of the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC). Ms. Oliver is very familiar with Universal Service, having served as the State Library E-rate Coordinator for Alaska for the past 8 years. During this time she has been involved with E-rate issues, both within our state and at the national level. In her capacity as our state's E-rate expert, she guides Alaskan applicants toward obtaining more than \$40 million annually in USF/E-rate support.

Ms. Oliver came to the State of Alaska Department of Libraries, Museums and Archives as a practicing MLS librarian for our largest school district. Well before she joined our Library Development staff as an E-rate specialist she had been providing leadership to Alaska's libraries through her activities in the Alaska Association of School Librarians including serving on their leadership board. Her experience and knowledge of both libraries and schools has given her a unique understanding of the issues facing school districts as well as libraries. In addition to her activities as our State E-rate coordinator she maintains a dialogue with the Regulatory Commission of Alaska, the Alaska Telephone Association, and those service providers within our state that help to deliver E-rate supported services. She is a respected contributing member of the Alaska Library Association and longtime member of the American Library Association. She participated in an ALA project, sponsored by the Gates Foundation, to establish a national organization of Library State E-rate Coordinators and continues to participate in this informal alliance.

Ms. Oliver has immersed herself in the shaping of broadband policy at the State of Alaska and was a regular attendant and commenter as the Broadband Task Force of Alaska convened over the past 3 years to develop recommendations for advancing broadband in our state. She was instrumental in our Alaska State Library's ARRA project, known as OWL (Online With Libraries) that has successfully brought increased broadband capacity, as well as videoconferencing and training, to libraries across our vast state. While this project began with federal, foundation, and state funding it would not have been possible or sustainable without the knowledge and guidance of Ms. Oliver to assist us in leveraging E-rate funds to make it happen.

Ms. Oliver has a first-hand understanding of the USF/E-rate program from both the urban and rural perspectives, as she prepares all of the E-rate forms for more than 60 rural libraries across the state. In addition to individual filings, she prepares and files all forms for the State of Alaska Library Internet Consortium while providing training and guidance to those larger libraries, library systems, school districts, and private schools. She maintains a state list serve that provides guidance, reminders, clarification and updates to applicants and service providers. She also maintains an E-rate website for State of Alaska participants. She brings clarification to our E-rate community by continuously following FCC orders and their resulting clarifications. Annually she provides a series of video-conferences on various timely topics leading up to and during the E-rate filing window. She makes herself available, regardless of travel, to applicants and service providers via phone and E-mail, in an effort to help all of our libraries and schools successfully navigate the E-rate process.

Ms. Oliver is the USF/E-rate Technology Plan Approver for the State of Alaska and acts as a resource for state procurement related to our network consortium application. She interacts daily with PIA review questions and participates monthly on USAC/state coordinator monthly calls representing Alaska's interests on both the libraries and the school's discussions.

Ms. Oliver has proven herself to be a tireless champion of the E-rate program and opportunities that it provides our communities and schools. She understands the E-rate program and the implications it has to rural states. She brings that perspective to national conversations surrounding Universal Service, the E-rate program, and the day to day administration of the program. She prepares comments to FCC NPRM proceedings, submitting on behalf of our state, addressing issues ranging from program implementation to FCC policy. She travels regularly to Washington D.C. to meet with state E-rate coordinators, USAC, our congressional delegation, other constituent groups, and members of the FCC to discuss, understand, and advocate for E-rate program implementation and improvement. I believe that the USAC board is in need of members with first-hand experience of the workings of the USF/E-rate program and feel that you could find no

better candidate than Ms. Oliver. It is my privilege, on behalf of the Alaska State Library, to nominate Valerie Oliver to the USAC board as a libraries' representative.

Respectfully submitted,



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